

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL NOTES

Druggists' Commissions.—There have already developed interesting features as a result of our editorial, "There Be Land Rats and Water Rats," attacking, in the last issue, the exchange of commissions between the physician and the bandagist. We have been assured by certain druggists that the giving of commissions to physicians, in return for prescription business, is greatly on the wane, but still exists, and that the druggists see no way out. They are ashamed of this phase of their business and would like to see it abolished, but evidently they are so poorly organized that they cannot hang together and put through a reform of this sort. But the druggists are not the only culprits. There are, and we say it regretfully, those among our own ranks who not only accept commissions, but insist upon them. . . .

On the heels of this statement, one pharmacy has done that very thing. It has a printed circular which it has mailed to many physicians, and which will be wrapped with each package, so that the patient may know what is going on. This circular reads, "Our institution is entirely individual and has no financial or pecuniary connection with any physician. If the doctor directs you to have your prescription work done by us, he does it solely for the reason that he knows we can be absolutely depended upon to dispense exactly what he orders. . . . All of which proves that he has your interest at heart."

That is the milk in the cocoanut.

Read This—It Is For Your Benefit!—You have had it drummed into you until you are sick of it, that to help the JOURNAL you must patronize its advertisers. Now we are asking your help to get advertisements. . . .

Our Legal Records and the Indemnity Defense Fund.—The practice of medicine depends perhaps more than any other branch of scientific endeavor upon experiment and inductive reasoning. And yet it is very difficult to direct the attention of men of this type of mind to matters of intense personal interest to them. We refer to the records of our Legal Department.

These records of claim after claim, and case after case against physicians, should engage the careful consideration of every member. They show conclusively, first, that neglect, carelessness, and lack of skill are not charged only against the younger men, the more inexperienced men, and the men who might not be termed the most learned or careful in any given line of work. But, on the contrary, these records demonstrate that these claims are made and suits are brought with the greatest impartiality against the most experienced, the most skillful, and the most careful of those of whom the profession can boast.

Secondly, these files show that rapacity and ignorance refuse to recognize that man is mortal; that there are few specific remedies; in a word, that a physician is not a warrantor of cures, nor a guarantor of diagnosis and treatment.

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

Board Proceedings

At the special meeting of the Board held in San Francisco, April 19, 1942, Fred R. DeLappe, M. D., of Modesto, was elected President, and Percival Dolman, M. D., of San Francisco, was elected Vice-President.

News

"Judge James William Morgan yesterday fined T. H. Lee, 627 Main Street, \$100 for violation of the medical practice act, and sentenced him to six months in the county jail, later suspended on condition he refrain from practicing medicine. He was arrested April 14, following an alleged attempted axe attack upon a woman and her husband, who had demanded the return of \$40.00 which they had paid for ineffective medicine." (*Chico Record*, May 7, 1942.)

"Charges against Dr. Roy L. Buffum, prominent Long Beach physician, of performing an illegal operation, were recommended dismissed by the prosecution yesterday after the doctor's two codefendants had pleaded guilty to a similar charge before Superior Judge A. A. Scott. Pleading guilty were Dr. J. J. Tobinsky, whose license has been revoked, and his office manager, J. C. Martin. They applied for probation and their hearing was set for June 16. Dr. Tobinsky and Martin were arrested last Jan. 16. Dr. Buffum was taken into custody at the same time and accused of having sent women patients to Tobinsky. Deputy District Attorney John Hopkins, however, told the court that there is not sufficient evidence to warrant trial of Dr. Buffum." (*Los Angeles Herald and Express*, May 19, 1942.)

"Have a yen, now and then, for a letter? Does the postman pass you by? There's a simple solution. Just apply for a marriage license. You'll get lots of mail. . . . Of first importance is compliance with California's medical examination law. Blood tests and health certificates are available from \$1.40 per person up, you learn in bold, black type, and every laboratory guarantees hurry-up, 24-hour service. . . ." (*Santa Monica Outlook*, May 13, 1942.)

"Charged with having engineered abortions for unmarried women, Mrs. Carmen Cantu, 40, of 1219 West Second St., Santa Ana, was jailed by District Attorney George F. Holden's investigators and Santa Ana police late yesterday. . . ." (*Orange News*, May 13, 1942.)

"Physicians living permanently in California, but not licensed in this state, may not use social calling cards carrying the designation 'Doctor' or 'M.D.', Attorney General Earl Warren has advised the State Board of Medical Examiners. Warren's opinion said that for many physicians the calling card is the only means of 'holding

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6. News Items are submitted by the Secretary of the Board.